



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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CONTACTS: Joe O'Keefe, EOE
(617) 626-1126
Joe Ferson, EOE
(617) 626-1119

LAWRENCE IS ONE OF FOUR COMMUNITIES TO RECEIVE URBAN RIVER VISIONS GRANT

The City of Lawrence will receive a \$75,000 grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) for implementation of its Urban River Visions project. The grant will be used for final design of a new public park at the so-called Covanta Brownfield site.

Lawrence's project involves a community-driven planning process for the Covanta site, which abuts Stevens Pond, the Malden Mills property, and a busy commercial corridor in the Arlington Neighborhood. It will be the final destination park along the Spicket River Greenway. When completed, the greenway and parks located along it will provide much needed recreational amenities.

"Urban River Visions fits into our smart growth philosophy, because it takes advantage of infrastructure that already exists in urban and downtown areas," said EOE Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard. "By providing these grants, we're able to help these communities restore and reclaim their environmental assets and promote smart economic development."

EOEA launched the Urban River Visions Initiative in 2002 by convening a collaborative planning process with the aim of developing a vision and action plan for urban riverfronts in seven cities and towns in Massachusetts. The communities that were chosen achieved a mix of size and geographic locations: Athol, Chicopee, Easthampton, Fall River, Hudson, Lawrence, and Worcester. Under this initiative, residents created a unique plan based on their community's needs, including housing, natural resource conservation, recreation, and commercial development. This round of funding is for the implementation of the recommendations from these municipalities' plans.

Highlights of the Lawrence project include:

- Achieving a high-degree of remediation consistent with re-use as a park.
- Providing a valuable recreational and open space in a dense and diverse neighborhood.

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